

City of Littleton

Fire Department
2255 West Berry Avenue
Littleton, Colorado 80165
303-795-3800
FAX 795-3819

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ADMINISTRATIVE
"CORP"

FILE PLAN

2.08.03

On Friday May 3, 1996, Littleton Firefighters were called to the "Bluffs", 600 West County Line Road, on a report of spilled mercury inside an apartment. Upon arrival, firefighters contacted the residents of two apartments who indicated their children had been playing in the storm drainage located at the northeast corner of the complex, where they found nine containers of liquid Mercury. The containers of Mercury were then brought back to the apartments where small amounts were spilled.

It is possible that other children playing in the area may have found additional containers of Mercury. Parents are asked to check with your children to see if they have found additional containers, or have been exposed to the Mercury.

Mercury is an odorless, silvery liquid metal. It is toxic by ingestion, absorption and inhalation of fumes. Repeated low exposure or a very high single exposure can cause Mercury poisoning. Symptoms include tremors (shaking), trouble concentrating and remembering, increased salivation, loss of appetite and weight, changes in mood and personality. Exposure to high levels of Mercury vapor can irritate the lungs causing a cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath and fever. Chronic (long term) health effects can occur some time after exposure to Mercury and can last for months or years.

If Mercury contacts the skin, promptly wash the contaminated skin with soap and water. If the Mercury penetrates your clothing, promptly remove and bag the clothing, then wash the skin with soap and water.

If you find a bottle of Mercury DO NOT TOUCH IT! Call the Littleton Fire Department at 794-1555 to have the material picked up and disposed of.

If you have additional questions please call the Fire Prevention Division at 795-3811.